

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION SHOWING THE CHANGES MADE

Replace paragraph [0020] as follows:

--[0020] According to one aspect of the present invention, an alloy for use in manufacturing medical, surgical, microsurgical and electrosurgical instruments includes from 0.01% to 20% by weight of germanium; ~~from~~ between 0% to 25% by weight relative to the germanium of at least one of a non-hydrogenic and shallow hydrogenic acceptor dopant; up to 20% by weight of one or more of the compounds selected from the group consisting of platinum, gold, palladium, iridium, ruthenium, osmium, rhodium, niobium, tantalum, tungsten, aluminum, silicon, hafnium, yttrium; lanthanum, zirconium and a remainder up to 100% by total weight constituted by silver which includes impurities.--